



## Prioritizing environmental health risks in the UAE

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### Abstract:

This article presents the results of a comparative environmental risk-ranking exercise that was conducted in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to inform a strategic planning process led by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD). It represents the first national-level application of a deliberative method for comparative risk ranking first published in this journal. The deliberative method involves a five-stage process that includes quantitative risk assessment by experts and deliberations by groups of stakeholders. The project reported in this article considered 14 categories of environmental risks to health identified through discussions with EAD staff: ambient and indoor air pollution; drinking water contamination; coastal water pollution; soil and groundwater contamination; contamination of fruits, vegetables, and seafood; ambient noise; stratospheric ozone depletion; electromagnetic fields from power lines; health impacts from climate change; and exposure to hazardous substances in industrial, construction, and agricultural work environments. Results from workshops involving 73 stakeholders who met in five separate groups to rank these risks individually and collaboratively indicated strong consensus that outdoor and indoor air pollution are the highest priorities in the UAE. Each of the five groups rated these as being among the highest risks. All groups rated soil and groundwater contamination as being among the lowest risks. In surveys administered after the ranking exercises, participants indicated that the results of the process represented their concerns and approved of using the ranking results to inform policy decisions. The results ultimately shaped a strategic plan that is now being implemented.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2010.01463.x>

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Public



# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Quality, Indoor Environment, Solar Radiation, Other Exposure

**Air Pollution:** Particulate Matter

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Desert, Ocean/Coastal, Urban

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Asia

**Asian Region/Country:** Other Asian Country

**Other Asian Country:** United Arab Emirates

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Morbidity/Mortality

## **Intervention:**

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Research Article

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content